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and there is so much else that must be done in the classroom that the classical teacher may be grateful to have this particular task taken off his hands and wish the book a large circulation.

Professor Peck's wide range of interests and his practiced pen of the ready writer seem to designate him for this broader work of survey and summary, and what, à propos of the versatile Eratosthenes, he styles "the cheap gibes of petty men who would have us think that versatility is inconsistent with sound scholarship" do not, I fancy, trouble him very seriously. The writer of this book can produce a monograph on Aristarchus when, or if, he pleases. But it would be idle to apply the critical microscope to these chapters as if they were a succession of such monographs. With the aid of the convenient appended Bibliography it would be easy to challenge some of Professor Peck's generalizations or take exception to a detail here and there. But since the tone, the perspectives, and the matter of the whole are essentially right, and adapted to the author's purpose, such criticism would be beside the mark. I will confine myself, then, to one little cavil. Professor Peck observes that Alcuin "in the true spirit of a monk" derived *caelebs*, "a bachelor," from *caelum*, "heaven." Of course when he pauses to reflect he is aware that this venerable jest is found in Quintilian i. 6. 26, and goes back to the similar Greek jocose derivation of the Homeric *ἡθεολ*.

PAUL SHOREY

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*Grundriss der römischen Geschichte nebst Quellenkunde.* Von BENEDICTUS NIESE. Vierte vermehrte und verbesserte Auflage. München: C. H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1910. Pp. vii + 454. M. 8.

Following after an interval of four years the publication of the much enlarged third edition, this well-known manual of Roman history lies before us in the fourth and final revision by the author. A few months after the book had left the press the death of Professor Niese, then holding the chair for ancient history at Halle, was announced. With him Germany lost one of its foremost scholars in the field, whose contributions in well-nigh all phases of later Greek and of Roman history had seriously to be counted with by all students of these branches.

The *Grundriss* is part of the familiar Iwan Mueller series known as "Handbuch der klassischen Altertumswissenschaft." Since it was reviewed at every issue little need here be said of the general character of the book. Niese covers all of Roman history down to the Lombard invasion, restricting his account, however, to the purely external, or rather, political events. Though this leaves the reader with an oppressive consciousness of ballots and battles, it is yet wholly in keeping with the plan of the series. The several fields of the internal development of Rome

each are allotted separate volumes. Throughout the work the sound scholarly judgment of the author, his painstaking accuracy and intimate acquaintance with his materials is evident. In form the treatment is concise and clear; indeed, sometimes the great scope and limited space make it almost too much so. The book can be read to full advantage only by advanced students.

The text of the new edition is substantially that of the third. The changes are all of them, with one exception yet to be discussed, small, consisting of short additions of a sentence or a paragraph here and there. In the aggregate, however, these alterations plus the inserted new section increase the volume by forty-five pages. The additional section referred to is on early Roman chronology and follows the fourth chapter on "The Conquest of Italy" (pp. 88 ff.). A short statement of its contents is perhaps in place. Niese follows in general the standard work of Mommsen. Where he dissents from the views of Mommsen, he sometimes follows Mazat, mostly, however, making his own conclusions. Much of the material, as will be noticed, had been scattered through the text and notes of former editions.

The author confines himself to Roman chronology before 280 B.C., because as he says: "Es kann als zugestanden angesehen werden, dass seit dem Pyrrhoskriege, seitdem die römische Geschichte durch die gleichzeitige griechische Geschichtsschreibung überliefert ward, die römische Jahrreihe feststeht, und die Zeitrechnung in allen wesentlichen Punkten gesichert ist" (p. 89 and 3).

After stating that early Roman chronology is a product of the later days and the scholarly research of the Romans themselves, he gives briefly a paragraph with two tables showing the correlation between the Olympiads and the Roman system of reckoning, allowing for the differences between the Roman and the Greek year. The rest of the excursus deals with the more specifically Roman side of the problem. He takes up the familiar division into the old and new style of chronology employed by Roman writers, and leading them respectively to the years 750 or 754 as the date of the founding of their city. To render the whole subject more clear he has worked out a comparative table showing the relation of the two styles to one another and of the various representatives of either to one another (p. 95). The period itself from 280 to the beginning he cuts into three smaller eras, following the Romans also in this. These eras run as follows: 280-386-506-751. This in itself will show that Niese prefers the old style of chronology, represented in the main by Polybius, Diodorus, Livy, and Dionysius. The later school of Varro and the *Fasti* he puts down as less accurate, claiming that it had unwarrantedly thrown back the reckoning by four years through the insertion of four dictatorial tenures of one year each. There seems to be no valid reason for this in his mind, if it be not the one he gives on p. 93, note, where he says: ". . .

da die Diktatorenjahre der Caesarischen Zeit entstammen, so kann die Vermutung aufsteigen dass damit ein verfassungsgeschichtliches Praecedenz für die jährigen Diktaturen Caesars geschaffen werden sollte" (Mazat). The many minor differences and problems within the several periods he passes by without further comment as beyond his present purpose. On the whole the excursus is a very helpful aid to the student who cares not to immerse himself in the intricacies of chronological speculation.

The literature in the bibliographies and the critical account of the sources has been carefully revised and brought up to date. Evidently the author took particular pains in judiciously selecting the items for his "Quellenkunde." Nothing is added in the bibliographies that appeared after September, 1909.

It seems unfortunate that the paper used by the publishers in this last edition for the reader at least is considerably inferior to that of the former. A slight glaze and lightfaced type make it a trial to the eyes to read much of the book at one sitting.

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*Griechische Papyrusurkunden der Hamburger Stadtbibliothek.* Band I: Herausgegeben und erklärt von PAUL M. MEYER. Heft 1: Nos. 1-23. Mit 7 Lichtdrucktafeln. Teubner: Leipzig, 1911. Pp. 100, plates VII. M. 8.

In addition to his work on the Giessen papyri noticed in *Classical Philology* for April, Paul M. Meyer has undertaken the publication of a collection now forming in the city library at Hamburg. No literary pieces seem to have found their way to Hamburg as yet, but the collection already contains documents of different periods from various parts of Egypt. Reserving the Ptolemaic pieces for a second *Heft* and the remarkable group of Hamburg *libelli* for a third, Meyer devotes his first to twenty-three Roman and Byzantine documents, mostly from the Fayum, dating from 57 A.D. to 569 A.D. One or two were written in Alexandria; ten belong to the third century. The method is that followed in the Giessen papyri; introduction to the document, its text with notes, and somewhat detailed commentary. Meyer shows wide acquaintance with the literature, and usually makes the most of the historical bearings of his documents, which are in general in themselves of no very great significance. Palaeographers will welcome his facsimiles, though they represent only business documents of familiar periods. Lexicographers will be interested in a second-century list of articles, which throws some light upon New Testament and patristic usage, and might in turn have been appreciably illuminated by the use of the parallels in contemporary Christian literature: *φαινόλη, κόκκινος, λυχνία, στάμνος, σάκκος,*